

MATTHEW: THE GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM

LESSON 51 – THE PARABLE OF THE WEDDING FEAST – MATTHEW 22:1-14

Read Matthew 22:1-14

Jesus continues to speak to the religious authorities through parables, although this is the last parable. The use of the word parables may be used adverbially to describe the type of speech Jesus uses rather than describing multiple parables still to come in this discussion.

vv. 2-7

1. What is offense of those invited by the king?
2. What is the reaction of the king to the refusal of his invitation, and is this reaction true to life?
3. The parables of Jesus often hinge on the unexpected that reveal the kingdom of God. The severe reaction of the king is unexpected. What does this reaction show us about the kingdom of God?
4. Open and unrepentant disobedience of God's people to the arrival of the messiah is a public disgrace to God similar to a king's invitation to a wedding feast. Should the people be surprised if they receive a stern rebuke from God for this disgrace?
5. What are people missing when they refuse the invitation of God to join in his wedding feast?
6. Is the rejection of God a neutral activity in this world that would expect a neutral reaction from God?
7. In light of the following passages (21:12-17; 23:37-39; 24:1-35), what is the reaction of God to the rejection of his son?

vv. 8-13

8. The king continues to desire to celebrate his son even though those who had been called were *not worthy*. How does Jesus' invitation from 11:28 help us understand who will be invited?

9. The servants go far and wide to find and gather people into the feast. How does this passage help you identify the purpose of mission work?

10. The good and the bad arrive for the wedding feast. What made the earlier people unworthy compared to this new set of guests?

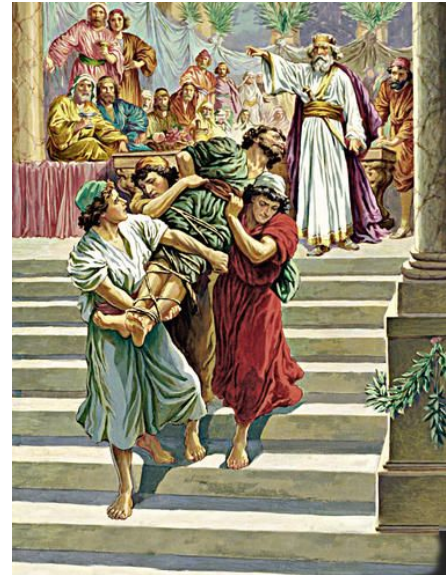
11. The banquet is the king's and so is the hospitality. He is the host, and he has the authority to receive and to reject. What draws the king's attention when he surveys the banquet?



12. What is Jesus teaching us in this second half of the parable of the wedding feast about the kingdom of God?

13. How does the expulsion of the wedding guest fit with our understanding of divinely extravagant grace?

14. What does the wedding garment represent?



15. Identify the parallelism between the first half and the second half of the parable.

Scene 1	
22:2-3a	Action of king...
22:3b	Response...
22:4	Reaction of king...
22:5-6	Response...
22:7	Reaction of king...
Scene 2	
22:8-9	Action of king...
22:10	Response...
22:11-12b	Reaction of king...
22:12c	Response...
22:13	Reaction of king...

22:14

16. "Many are the called, but few are the chosen" Matthew will often use the word "many" to describe "all." In the parable all are invited, all are called. Not everyone is chosen. There is a division in Israel. What is the criterion for salvation in the kingdom of God? Is it different for those in the first invitation group and those in the second invitation group?